

office seekers. Having no corn in their individual Crib, they seek to live out of the public Crib. When Gen'l Washington wanted more forces in the field he begged *that men might be appointed to office who had some character to loose*. In your own Department, I think you should look out for meritorious men in our own State, and some in every part of it. You have a large acquaintance yourself; but by applying to such men as Outlaw, Deberry and Sheppard, you could select competent men and faithful officers in N. C. We ought to have our full share in the Naval Academy, and some in the West as well as the East. While in the N. D. you may have it in your power to do something for Wilmington, Beaufort, and Nags Head. I desire whatever advantages we have may be carefully examined, surveyed, and improved, if practicable. I have great doubts of the practicability of improving Nags Head, however desirable it may be. I have a strong and an abiding conviction that Beaufort has more natural advantages for a Sea-Port town than any place in our State; and would have been improved, as such, long since, but for the conflicting interests of Wilmington and Newbern. And also owing to the erroneous opinion of the olden time, that a Sea-Port town must be at the mouth of some navigable River. That was true before the invention of Rail Roads. But in these days of progress and improvement, water is not the only element on which travel, trade and commerce may be transported. Could not a survey or a resurvey be made by the most able of the U. S. Engineers, both of Wilmington and Beaufort? and their opinion of the most practical mode of improving each of them, and the amount needful for that purpose. I shall be pleased to hear from you whenever your leisure and convenience will permit.

From Richard Hines.

U.

Raleigh,

Oct. 14th, 1850.

* * * * *

At the adjournment of Congress I flattered myself the Compromise measures which they passed would as soon as the excitement wore off, satisfy the whole Country. I have therefore been greatly pained and disappointed at seeing such exertions made North and South to keep up the agitation; and when I see a call